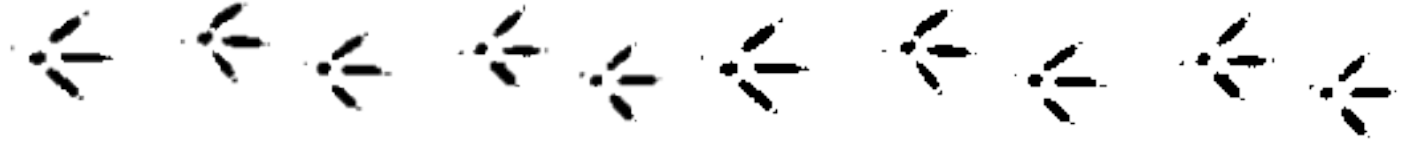


Turkey Tales

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

A NEW YORK STATE CHAPTER PUBLICATION



ALLEGANY STATE PARK HONORS NYS TRAP & TRANSFER BEGINNINGS

WITH MONUMENT & MUSEUM DISPLAY

**STATE CHAPTER AWARDS BANQUET
STATE LEADERSHIP MEETING
SEED SUBSIDY ON-LINE ORDERING
LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS**



*NEW LOCATION FOR
LEADERSHIP MEETING
& AWARDS DINNER!*

www.nwtf.org/about/state/new-york



NWTF-New York



The photo on the front cover shows the new display in the Allegany State Park Museum, part of the Administration Building at the Red House section of the park. The exhibit shows a replication of the first trap and release project.

The photo to the left is a close up of the museum's display.



IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE PRESIDENT & STATE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS LISTING	3
2017 LEADERSHIP MEETING & ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET.....	4
ALLEGANY STATE PARK/NWTF DISPLAY	6
LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS & BANQUET DATES	8
RAMBLINGS FROM A REGIONAL DIRECTOR	12
10 GUN RAFFLE WINNERS & CALLING CONTEST INFO.....	12
JAKES SCHOLARSHIP INFO	13
YOUNG FOREST INITIATIVE	14
NYS TABLE AT NATIONAL CONVENTION	15
FRED EVANS SPEAKS AT ASP	16

In an effort to cut costs associated with the printing and mailing of *Turkey Tales*, households with multiple NWTF members may only receive one newsletter. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

The New York Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation
Turkey Tales is published biannually by the New York State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF).

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Message from the President

Dear Friends and Members,

It is an honor to continue to serve you as your State Chapter President, and I would like

to personally thank you for your support of this great organization we belong to.

We have come along way with our Save the Habitat Save the Hunt initiative, thanks to our hard-working chapter volunteers and leaders.

As my term as president comes to an end I would like to challenge

and urge you to become more involved. Whether

it be by joining your local chapter committee or, if

there is no local chapter near you, consider getting your

friends, family and hunting buddies together to form

a new chapter. Or it can be as simple as contacting

your legislators in support of conservation issues,

introduce or reintroduce a person to hunting or mentor a new

hunter. It is through this involvement that we can continue

to be one of the strongest and most active conservation organizations in our State.

I would also like to invite you to join us Saturday January 13th for our State leadership meeting in Syracuse where you can

hear about hosting outreach events among other topics. The Leadership Meeting will be followed by our awards banquet

Saturday evening.

As the Hunting seasons continue, take a moment to reflect on how fortunate we are to be able to enjoy this sport we are so

passionate about and what we can do to ensure it can continue for future generations.

Please feel free to contact me with your concerns.

Bill Wilbur

NYS CHAPTER MEETING DATES

JANUARY 13-14, 2018 At Embassy Suites, Syracuse

MARCH 11, 2018 *

JULY 8, 2018 *

SEPTEMBER 9, 2018 *

*Regular Quarterly Board meetings will be held at the North Seneca Sportsmen's Club, 334 NY 318, Phelps, NY 14532.

NWTF

770 Augusta Rd;
Edgefield, SC 29824

Newsletter Editors:

Randy Opferbeck, Carol and Larry Becker, Doug Little,
Sean Langevin

Newsletter Designer: Deb Opferbeck



**NEW
LOCATION**

LEADERSHIP MEETING 2018

Where: Embassy Suites by Destiny, 311 Hiawatha Blvd. W. Syracuse, NY 13204

When: Saturday January 13, 2017

2018 LEADERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM & WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS:

Friday 1/12/2018

Chapter and Leadership Social - Open Bar and Hors D'Oeuvres 5:30-7:30

Saturday 1/13/2018

Breakfast. FREE for hotel guests; \$10 per person if you didn't stay at the hotel Friday night.

Saturday 1/13/18

8:45 - 9:30 State Leadership Registration.

9:30 - 10:30 Biology hour. Come and hear what is going on in NYS with habitat and turkey biology.

10:45 - 11:45- Chapter and Volunteer Recruitment. The lifeline of the NWTF and Conservation as we know it. WHY, HOW, and WHERE!

12:00 - 12:45 Lunch is provided.

1:00 - 4:00 Breakout sessions. Come learn more about our JAKES, WITO and Wheelin Programs. Also learn how to improve your banquet and front door efficiency with our event management online system.

**5:00pm – 10:00 pm AWARDS DINNER AND BANQUET. Key Note Speaker Chris Kirby,
Quaker Boy Game Calls, President**

Sunday 1/14/18

7:00 Breakfast. Free to everyone who stayed overnight at the hotel. \$10 for anyone who didn't.

8:30 New York State Chapter Board of Directors meeting

12:00 Lunch Provided

ALL NWTF MEMBERS and those considering joining, may attend. There is NO CHARGE for attending this meeting, however, ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED for the FREE lunch.

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER WITH Mike Camberari (315-481-4157 or mcambarel@gmail.com). Or complete the form on the adjacent page and mail to Mike Camberari, P O Box 421, Lacona, NY 13083.

We encourage everyone to attend these fun and learning events.

Get to know other local chapter volunteers and the State Chapter Board volunteers.

NYS CHAPTER QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING - Sunday January 14, 2018: 8:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. (+/-)

All NWTF members are welcome to attend any of our board meetings. Since we serve lunch and refreshments, advanced notice is helpful to ensure we have enough food and beverages. There is no charge for your meal. If you would like to attend, contact your Regional Director or Bill Wilbur. Your participation is encouraged!

NOMINATIONS ARE REQUESTED

GIVE HONOR TO THE EFFORTS OF YOUR CHAPTER FOR ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OR A MEMBER FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION:

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Do you know of an exceptional NWTF member? The NYS Chapter every year honors a special member as The Chapter Member of the Year. If you would like to submit a deserving individual, the Award Committee would like to hear from you. Provide the members name, address, and an explanation of what makes this member special. Feel free to include any additional information such as news clippings, letters of support from others, anything that will show how this person is outstanding and should be considered for the award. The information should be submitted by 12/17/17, to Randy Opferbeck, Awards Committee, 3164 N. Nine Mile Rd, Allegany, NY 14706.

4 FALL 2017 ISSUE

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Are you proud of your chapter and its 2017 accomplishments such as; your outreach efforts, membership growth, projects and events? If so, the NYS Chapter Awards Committee would like to consider your chapter for the Local Chapter of the Year Award. Submit a synopsis of your chapter's accomplishments and provide supporting information, the more the better, to the Awards Committee by 12/17/17, so that your chapter can be considered for this prestigious award. Send the information to Randy Opferbeck, Awards Committee; 3164 N. Nine Mile Rd., Allegany, NY 14706.

NWTF.org/about/state/new-york

2018 AWARDS BANQUET NEWS

2018 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

AT THE EMBASSY SUITES BY DESTINY, 311 HIAWATHA BLVD. W,
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK, 13204, 1-315-303-1650

**Saturday, January 13, 2018: NWTF NYS Chapter Awards Banquet:
5:00 pm – 10:00 pm**

Guest Speaker: Chris Kirby, Quaker Boy Game Calls, President

Invitees: **ALL NWTF MEMBERS** and their significant other.



Purpose: Awards presentation for outstanding accomplishments over the past year to local chapters and other deserving individuals. This will be a fun time to visit with old friends, make new friends, and to network with your fellow wild turkey conservationists. You will also have an opportunity to meet special guests, view and bid on the 2018 banquet core package and on other items of your choice, enter special raffles for guns and other prizes.

Registration: Advance registration and payment for meals is required, YOU MUST REGISTER BY JANUARY 6, 2018 TO RESERVE SEATS FOR YOUR GROUP. Reserved seats after this date cannot be guaranteed! PLEASE PRE-REGISTER WITH Mike Camberari (315-481-4157 or mcambare1@gmail.com). Or complete the form and mail to Mike Camberari, P O Box 421, Lacona, NY 13083.

Cost: See Form

REGISTRATION FORM FOR LEADERSHIP MEETING AND AWARDS BANQUET

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: _____

Member of Local Chapter _____

Street: _____ City: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone Number: (____) ____-____ Cell Number (____) ____-____

E-mail: _____

Sign me up for the following:

RESERVATION TYPE	COST FOR 1	NUMBER	TOTAL
FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL HOUR	\$0.00		\$0.00
LEADERSHIP MEETING (ENTER GUESTS IN NUMBER COLUMN)	\$0.00		\$0.00
AWARDS BANQUET DINNER (SELECT CHOICE BELOW) INCLUDES MASHED POTATOES AND SEASONAL VEGETABLES			
Chicken Syracuse with Citrus Wine Sauce	\$35.00		
Grilled Rib - 10oz. Center Cut Ribeye topped with Garlic Herb Butter	\$35.00		
Pasta Primavera with Alfredo Sauce and seasoned vegetables	\$35.00		
Gluten Free Meals Available upon request	\$35.00		
Reserve a Table for 8	\$300.00		
SUNDAY BOARD MEETING BUFFET LUNCH	\$0.00		
GRAND TOTAL			

Check - Payable to "NYS NWTF". Phone number is required on check.

Credit Card-Circle Type of Card - Expiration date, phone number and Zip Code are required.

MC VISA AMEX DISCOVER _____ cvv# _____
Expiration Date ____/____/____ Zip Code _____

Cut out and mail the form and your payment no later than January 6, 2018 to:

Mike Camberari, P O Box 421, Lacona, NY 13083.

Overnight rooms are available at a discounted price of \$119.00 plus taxes. Reservations must be made by December 20, 2017. Free Open Bar from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for those with Overnight Room Reservations; \$20 for those without a room reservation.

**Free made to order breakfast in the morning for those with Overnight reservations;
\$10 per person if you did not stay overnight.**

WILD TURKEY RESTORATION EXHIBIT UNVEILED AT ALLEGANY STATE PARK

A ceremony was held on July 6, 2017 to unveil a new wild turkey restoration exhibit at the Allegany State Park Administration Building Museum. The exhibit commemorates the park's role in trapping and transferring wild turkeys to other areas within New York and other northeastern states.

The display was developed by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYS OPRHP), in partnership with the NWTF and NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). The exhibit includes video footage of wild turkey trapping and other related, educational information. A stone monument was erected in 2016, just off France Brook Road, the site where the first birds were captured in 1959.

Fred Evans was introduced by Emilio Rende (NYS DEC) and captivated the audience with stories of the early days of wild turkey restoration. Fred recalled that landowners in the area outside of Allegany State Park were reluctant to allow wild turkeys on their property to be trapped and relocated. The decision to allow NY State Conservation Department staff to trap turkeys rested on a Regional Park Commission vote. Fortunately Fred said they voted in favor of allowing wild turkeys to be captured within the Park for restoration outside of the State Park.

Fred then spoke about the first successful trapping effort in 1959. He vividly described how a particular deer was frequenting the bait site to take advantage of the free lunch. If the turkeys arrived before that deer left they could not shoot the net to trap them. Fortunately the deer vacated the area and trappers were able to shoot the net over the turkey flock. They captured 11 wild turkeys for transfer and release in Humphrey, NY. A photo of that turkey flock at the bait site with that deer in the background provides the backdrop for the primary exhibit display.

Evans was one of the first members of NWTF's National Board of Directors. He was honored with NWTF's inaugural Wayne Bailey Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2008 National Convention and Sport Show. During the event Fred was honored with a Lifetime Achievement award from the Governor's office.

Wild turkeys had vanished from New York by the mid-late 1800's. In the late 1950s, though, some were observed in Allegany State Park. The birds had expanded north from the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania, which borders the park at the state line.

Fred credited his supervisor at the time, Richard "Dick" Hyde, for allowing Department staff to prioritize wild turkey restoration. The vision to allow staff the opportunity to obligate time towards the restoration work resulted in a monumental success story that the exhibit will portray to park visitors.

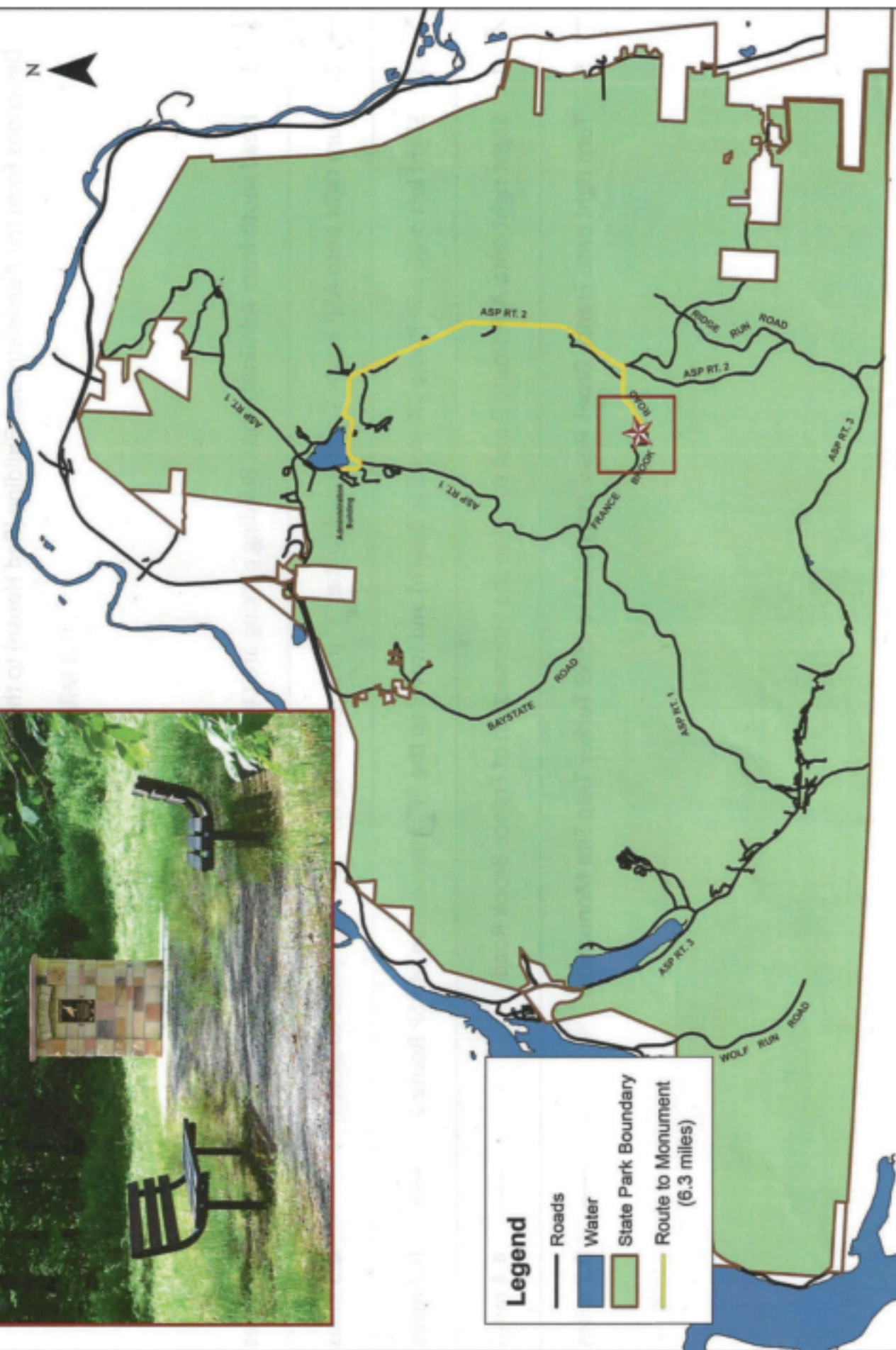
"The museum display and monument showcase and honor the men who founded this program and did so much for the conservation of the wild turkey," said NYS OPRHP Regional Director Jay Bailey. "We are extremely proud of Allegany State Park's role in the reestablishment of this iconic North American bird."

Randy Opferbeck, NWTF-NY State Chapter Board member and Enchanted Mountains Local Chapter President, presented Jay Bailey a plaque during the ceremony to thank State Park staff for their efforts in making this project happen. Randy was among a strong contingent of NWTF volunteers and staff in attendance. Four NWTF-NY State Chapter Board members and six NWTF staff were in attendance for ceremony.

Allegany State Park was the source of 399 wild turkeys for restoration efforts throughout NY State from 1959-77. An additional 92 wild turkeys were trapped in the State Park to assist with restoration in other states, including Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New Jersey from 1972-77.



Sight of First Wild Turkey Trap and Transfer Program ~ Established in 1959 ~



NEWS FROM THE LOCAL FLOCKS

The Crossroads Limbangers hosted their first Women in the Outdoors event August 19th in Honeoye Falls. The day was led by two of its members, Dannielle Schmitt and Delicia Crippen. For the first event, it was a great success with 8 women.



The morning portion consisted of a nature hike followed by a visit to Wild Wings, a non-for profit educational organization located within Mendon Ponds Park, which takes in permanently injured birds of prey. During the 1.5 mile hike, the women learned basic outdoor identification skills, such as the surrounding and edible flora, as well as animals and their tracts/signs. The women learned quick tips for creating a simple well-balanced meal while in the backcountry, which they then applied to making their own lunch.

The afternoon portion consisted of a fishing demonstration by I Fish NY and archery lessons by Traditions Archery. After being split into two groups the women had a chance to fish (or try to fish) and practice shooting a compound bow. Overall the day was a huge hit, positive feedback and helpful criticism was given along with ideas for future events. The Crossroads Limbangers would like to thank the men and women who volunteered their time to make the day possible.



The Niagara County Gobblers Chapter - will host its Hunting Heritage Banquet on Sunday, April 8, 2018. It is at the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Company. Contact either Herb or Pam Lederhouse at 716-791-3151.



In the above photo, Pam Lederhouse presents the local scholarship award to Tanner Russell at their local banquet.

The Chautauqua Lake Chapter

The picture below is from the Chapter's annual fund raiser. The top prize winner is Marvin Okie Oquist from Greenhurst, NY. The picture he won is from Artist Jack Paluh from his Heritage & Military Series and it is called *Here's To Our Heroes*. The nice thing about this is, that Okie is a War Veteran. He is very proud of his new picture.



The Southern Tier Chapter

The picture below records a group from the Southern Tier Chapter attending the State Chapter's Annual Awards Banquet in January 2017 at Waterloo. The Southern Tier Chapter received The Golden Gobbler Award.

Standing in the picture from l to r: Vice President Andy Munson, Secretary/IT Paul Litynski. Seated left to right are: Board Member RJ Avery, President Russ Avery, Treasurer Larry Shutts.



The picture above was taken at Jonathon's Restaurant in Endwell where a Veteran Hunt Dinner was hosted. The Southern Tier Chapter took two veterans out on May 19th and 20th. One Jason Powell from St Marys, PA who served in Afganistan and the other Mervin Fuller from Whitney Point who served during Vietnam.

Photo left to right: Paul Litynski, Don Boyce, Russ Avery, Doug Doty, Ryan Savage, Merv Fuller, Maxwell Savage Jason Powell, RJ Avery, Mindy Lewis, Larry Shutts, Chris Hinman.

This picture was taken at Turkey Trot Acres in Candor, on August 26th where The Southern Tier Chapter held a Guns n Lobster Bash. Plenty of merchandise was donated by the call makers and engraving by Barons Technologies.

Standing, l to r: Unknown, Ed Tarafanko, Scott Basehore, Eric Pettit, Pat Strawser, Mike Lapp, Marlin Watkins. Bottom left. Scott Witter. Ed Tarafanko son. Matt Morrett.



Above is a picture the Youth Hunt sponsored on April 22nd and 23rd by the Southern Tier Chapter. 30 youths were registered and 11 were successful hunters. There were 25 young men and 5 ladies. The Grand Prize winner was Teagan Signs whose bird scored 70.625. He won an ALPS outdoor grand slam Turkey vest, custom box call, and gift certificate from Gander Mountain.

The Hardwood Strutters Hunting Heritage Banquet will be April 19, 2018, details and tickets can be purchased online or contact Norm Ridley (315) 651-9096 (call or text).

The Cayuga County Longbeards Hunting Heritage Banquet will be February 17, 2018, at the Union Springs Fire Hall. Contact Mike Koziol at wingitcalls2004@yahoo.com or 315-730-2420.

NEWS FROM THE LOCAL FLOCKS

Sullivan County Longbeards - JAKES EVENT

On September 16, 2017 The SCLB's once again, managed to conduct a 5STAR outdoor youth event as the comments on facebook confirmed. 185 registered youth participated in multiple shooting events including : archery, Jakes take Aim trailer, Air rifle, .410 shotgun and .22 cal rifle. Prior to doing any of the shooting participants were required to take a firearm safety class conducted by Sullivan County 4-H Shooting Sports instructors. More than thirty youth participated in the Tree Stand Safety class. Each was given a



raffle ticket and the winner took home the demo tree stand. Provided to all youth were free lunch, snack, and beverage, as well as a venue with apple cider (made on site) cider donuts and popcorn.



Many volunteers instructed or displayed: fly fishing – water fowl retrieving - portable sawmill – building of Blue Bird Houses - chainsaw wood carving – trapping – hands on with birds of prey – youth ID – NYS DEC & Monticell PD K-9 demonstrations. Also on site were NYS Forest Rangers – NYC DEP – State Fish Hatchery of DeBruce – NPS Upper Delaware S&RR (Scenic & Recreational River) along with

the 143rd Civil War reenactors.

We must also recognize the Friends of the NRA for their sponsorship. All total, we had the assistance of 72 volunteers to make this a quality event.

Enchanted Mountains Chapter



Matt Brownell reported calling in a bird for Josh Francisco (above left) on May 6, 2017. The bird was 19 pounds, had a 9" beard and 3/4" spurs.



During Youth Turkey Hunt season, Matt Brownell was able to call in a gobbler for Jon White, pictured in the photo above right. The bird weighed in at 21 pounds, had a 10 inch beard and 1 inch spurs. At one point, the gobbler was within 10 feet of Jon and he was shot at 8 yards!

UPCOMING LOCAL CHAPTER BANQUET DATES

1/20/2018	Lakeshore Longbeards	Dunkirk
1/27/2018	Wyoming County Gobblers	Alexander
2/3/2018	Niagara Frontier	Amherst
2/3/2018	Genegantslet Gobblers	Port Crane
2/9/2018	Cohocton Valley	Howard
2/10/2018	Catharine Valley Longspurs	Watkins Glen
2/17/2018	Cayuga County Longbeards	Union Springs
2/23/2018	Niagara Falls Thundering Toms	Niagara Falls
2/24/2018	Twin Tiers	Corning
3/1/2018	The Forest Kings	Amherst
3/3/2018	Lake Country	Canandaigua
3/3/2018	Southern Tier Local	Endwell
3/9/2018	Lake Ridge Gobblers	Brockport
3/10/2018	Letchworth Chapter	Caledonia
3/10/2018	Cortland Limbhangers	Cincinnatus
3/15/2018	SUNY Cobleskill	Cobleskill
3/16/2018	Canisteo Valley	Hornell
3/17/2018	Fingerlakes Bucks-N-Beards	Pulteney
3/17/2018	Saratoga Strutters	Gloversville
3/18/2018	Sullivan County Longbeards	Parksville
3/23/2018	Chemung Valley Ridgerunners	Elmira
3/24/2018	Crossroads Limbhangers	Lima
3/24/2018	Lake Champlain	Plattsburg
3/25/2018	Borderline Longbeards	Massena
3/31/2018	Between the Lakes	Ovid
4/5/2018	Lake Plains	Webster
4/7/2018	Tri-County chapter	Ithaca
4/8/2018	Niagara County Gobblers	Youngstown
4/13/2018	Oak Orchard River	Albion
4/14/2018	Springville Strutters	Springville
4/19/2018	Hardwood Strutters	Geneva
4/20/2018	Genesee Chapter	Batavia
4/27/2018	Oswego River	Fulton
4/28/2018	Drumlins chpt	Clyde
5/5/2018	Chautauqua Lake	Frewsburg
5/19/2018	Grand Slam Gobblers	Wolcott
5/20/2018	Summer Slam	Hornell
6/1/2018	Salmon River Strutters	Sandy Creek
6/3/2018	Seneca Lake	Dresden
6/9/2018	Springville Strutters Wito Event	Chaffee
9/15/2018	Mohawk Valley Sharpspurs	Johnstown
9/22/2018	Enchanted Mountains	Olean



It is never too early to expose children to turkey hunting as seen in the photo above. Josh Francisco shows his son, Jackson, the second turkey he bagged this year!



Get your Chapter's events in *Turkey Country*:

Share your chapter successes with the world by submitting your chapter news to Turkey Country magazine's "Regional News" section. Write up a brief description (one to two paragraphs) of your event or news, and send it along with one or two high-resolution photographs to turkeycountry@nwtf.net. Put "Regional News" in the subject line.

There are many resources available for you to use in promoting your chapter's events at www.nwtf.org/resource-library. If you do not find what you are looking for, the staff at National is able to help customize what you need. You can also get a copy of the Annual Report and the Strategic Vision to give to potential donors for help in fundraising for your event.



RAMBLINGS FROM AN RD

First of all and most importantly, I am looking forward to all the 2018 banquets and working with my people. I anticipate the biggest year yet!

After 23 years of serving local chapters as Regional Director, I have decided to retire as of January 2019. My first banquet as an RD was October 1, 1995 with the Enchanted Mountains Chapter in Olean, NY. Ironically, my last banquet will be with the Enchanted Mountains Chapter in September 22, 2018.

The NWTF has undergone many changes during my employment, going from handwritten forms and reports to fully computerized reporting and accounting. I have seen the management go from Rob Keck to George Thornton to the current Becky Humphries.

During my tenure, I helped start over 38 chapters in the United States and Canada. These local chapter banquets have netted over \$7 million during that time.

By the far, the biggest thing that I will miss is the people and friends I have made throughout my time with the NWTF. I have developed many dear friendships and created many memories. I always have said, "If you put a minimal amount of money on each friendship, I would be considered a millionaire."

Some of the people I worked with that have passed away and I sadly miss are: Vanessa, Judy, Ed, Bobby, Harry, Linda, Trish, Cindy, Bob, Dick, Ted, Dick K., 'Pizza', Daryall, Bud, Jimmy

I wish to thank everyone that has helped make my job easier and fun.

Quoting my favorite poet:

"Each to his own way, I'll go mine

Best of luck, with what you find

But for your own sake, remember times

WE USED TO KNOW"

Ian Anderson



Applications for Marty's replacement will be taken by Phil Ferrare, Director of Field Operations, pferrare@nwtf.net, (814) 796-6983.

NYS CHAPTER'S ANNUAL 10 GUN RAFFLE WINNERS

1. Ted Dlugolecki – Rome, NY
2. Leroy Van Valkenburgh – Summit, NY
3. Rick Long – Allegany, NY
4. Clifford Townley – Geneva, NY
5. Alex Walczyk – Springville, NY
6. Josh Francisco – Belmont, NY
7. Mark Loftus – Watertown, NY
8. William Lyons – Schenectady, NY
9. Dave Bishop – Chittenango, NY
10. Jeremy Krizon – Fonda, NY



In the photo above is a plaque that is part of the display in the museum at Allegany State Park. It lists the people and organizations that helped to make the display and monument possible.

THE NEW YORK STATE CALLING CONTEST

is scheduled for **Saturday, April 7, 2018** at Bass Pro in Auburn NY. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the contest will start at 12:00 noon. The contest is being sponsored by Bass Pro Shops and Lynch Mob Calls. Calling categories will be: Open, Resident, Friction, Intermediate, Gobbling, Owl Hooting, Amateur, and Poult divisions.

For more information, contact Bill Wilbur at 315-963-3368 or Norm Ridley at 315-651-9096.

Now is the time to consider choosing your **Dr James Earl Kennamer Conservation Scholarship** recipient. Each chapter can submit someone for a guaranteed \$250. Go the extra step and support one of your Extreme JAKES to continue their education.

Applications should be submitted by January 1st to local chapters and forwarded to Butch Kortright, 5 Clifford Lane, Parksville, NY 12768 by February 1st to be considered for NYS State winner with a \$1000 1st prize award and a \$500 2nd prize award. The State winner will be submitted to National for a possible \$10,000 award. Applications and information may be obtained at:

<http://www.nynwtf.org/scholarships/>

Thank you

Butch Kortright – Scholarship Chairman



Eligibility:

1. Students should be graduating seniors with a 3.0 on 4.0 scale or equivalent grade point average. (If transcript indicates a scale other than 4.0, student should have a minimum of 3.75 on a 5.0 scale, 4.5/6.0 scale, 5.25/7.0 scale, 6.0/8.0 scale, 6.75/9.0 scale or a 7.5/10.0 scale).
2. Students must be pursuing a degree at an accredited institution of higher education (i.e. Junior College, Community College, Technical College, College or University).
3. Students must support the preservation of the hunting tradition and actively participate in hunting sports. A copy of current hunting license is required.
4. Students must hold a current NWTF membership.
5. Students must be involved in school activities (i.e. FFA, Ecology Club, Science Club, Beta Club, Student Council, etc.).
6. Students must demonstrate ability as a leader among his or her peers.
7. Students must demonstrate community leadership and/or involvement (i.e. Scouting, 4-H, civic group or club, volunteer work).
8. Students must submit an essay exhibiting dedication to conservation (see application).
9. Three letters of recommendation must be attached to the application (i.e. teacher, counselor, community leader).



10. High schools/students must submit complete applications to the local chapter by January 1. The local chapter president's name and address should appear on the application in the box provided.

11. Employees and board members of the NWTF and their family members are not eligible to participate in the program.

Selection Process:

1. High schools/students will submit applicant names and qualifications on an official NWTF scholarship application, along with required attachments, to the local chapter by January 1.
2. Local chapters will forward winners to the state chapter president by February 1.
3. State officers will forward state winners to the NWTF headquarters by March 1, where the NWTF Scholarship Committee will select the National winner.
5. Winners may not be notified until their high school awards banquet, as many chapters like to surprise students.
6. The national winner will be asked to attend the National Convention the following year to be recognized.

Scholarship Levels:

Most Local Scholarship Winners will receive a minimum of \$250.

Most State/Provincial Scholarship Winners will receive a minimum of \$1,000.

The National Scholarship Winner will receive up to \$10,000.



This little guy is learning how to make a bird house at the Sullivan County Longbeards JAKES event.

YOUNG FOREST INITIATIVE UPDATES

Kristen Schnepf-Giger, NWTF Wildlife Biologist

Kaylee Resha, NWTF Wildlife Biologist

The end of summer signals back to school for thousands of kids. It signals thoughts of hunting among many of us. Think of those obligatory first day of school pictures. Whether you took them as a parent or received them as a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or other loved one, you couldn't help but notice how much those kids have grown since last year's first day of school picture. The growth, change, and progression of youth is nothing short of amazing. If you blink, you'll go from changing their diaper to attending their wedding.

Many of us will take to the field and spend countless hours alone in tree stands this fall. This important time of solitude and reflection allows us to relive the happy times, and try to pull lessons out of the sad times. It doesn't take long to realize that much has changed in our own lives, since we did this same mental exercise last season. The rate of change in our lives may slow as the years seem to speed up, but change happens nonetheless.

So how does the metaphor of kids and hunters sitting in tree stands work with wildlife management and overall habitat? Simple. Nature follows the same progression. On a very basic level, a young, vibrant, rapidly growing area evolves into an area with saplings, pole sized timber, and eventually mature saw timber. Blink and your hunting area will go from reverting fields to mature timber faster than your hair line recedes. Much of the landscape has gone through this progression and is in the mature or overly mature timber class

Just as it is vitally important to have diversity of age demographics in society, it is also vitally important to have

diversity of habitats on the landscape. No one age class can (or should) do it all.

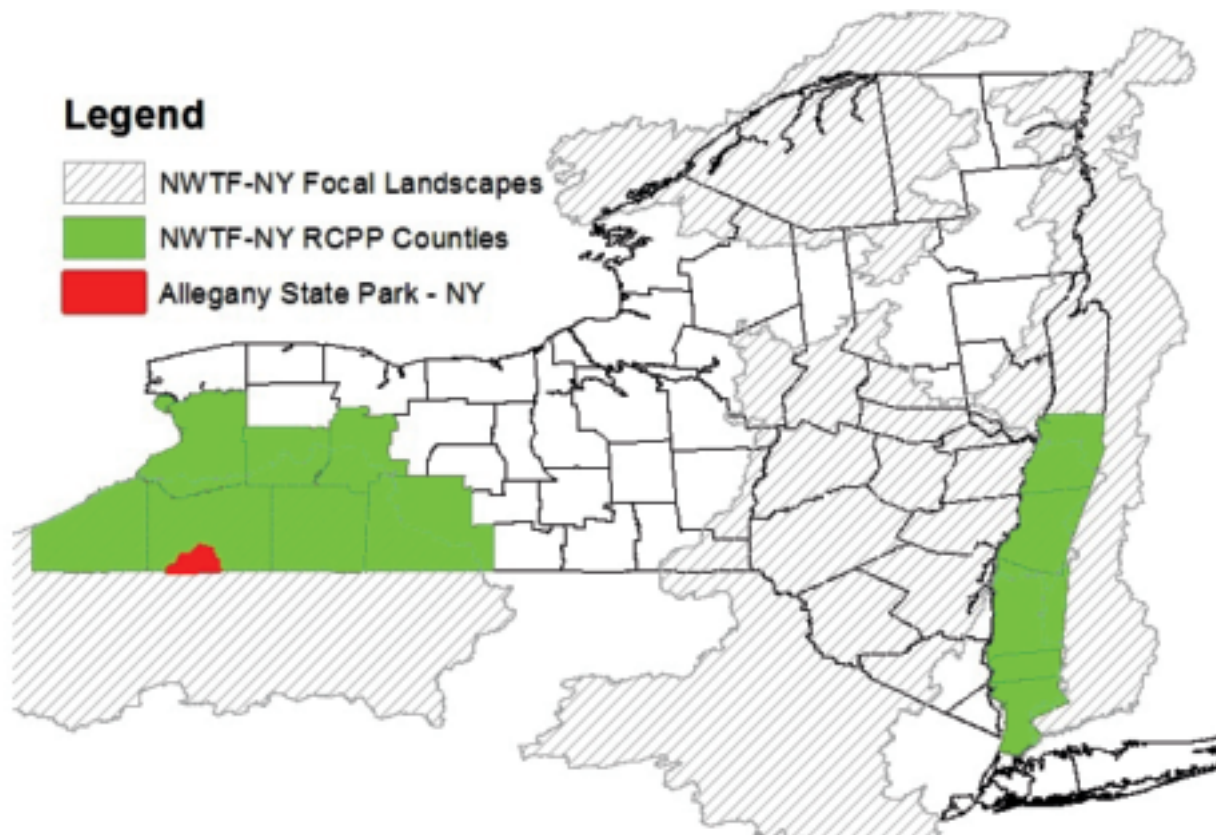
This is where NWTF's Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative partnered with US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other non-governmental organizations (NGO's) to address the critical need for young forest habitat diversity on the landscape in New York.

The program has been launched and has taken off successfully. Site visits are being conducted and management plans are being written. The first round of applications are currently being considered for financial assistance to implement habitat work outlined in the management plans. Common practices used to create this young forest habitat include (but not limited to) herbicide, and timber stand improvement.

If you are a landowner in one of the counties highlighted on this map, there may be funding available for you to create this type of habitat on your land. Quality turkey nesting habitat is at a premium in these areas. This type of habitat work will not only create great turkey nesting habitat, but provide great deer browse and cover, as well as benefit a suite of other young forest habitat dependent wildlife species.

Do you own land outside those counties? You're not out of luck. The benefit of the partnership aspect of this program is that there are other biologists working for other NGO's who may be able to assist you in the same manner. We'd be happy to put you in touch with the biologist working in your area!

For more information, please contact: Kristen Schnepf-Giger (southwestern NY): kgiger@nwtf.net Or Kaylee Resha (southeastern NY): kresha@nwtf.net





Volunteers from the NYS Chapter are shown in the picture above with the winning table from the 2017 National Convention.



WE NEED YOUR SUGGESTIONS & HELP TO MAINTAIN OUR CHAMPIONSHIP!

As you may remember, the NYS Chapter won the first place award at the National Convention this past February. The NYS Chapter would like to be part of the State Chapter's Tables again at the National Convention. The idea is that each state sets up a table with products indicative of their state. Each table is then auctioned off.

We have many products that are unique to our state and would like your help gathering these products to fill our table and showcase New York State.

We have a list of some of the items from our state, but if you know more, you can add them to ours. What we have thought of so far is: Maple products, Wine, Apples, Grandma Brown's Beans, Henry Rifle, Philadelphia Cream Cheese, Cuba Cheese, Potato Chips, Cutco/KaBar Knives... this is just a start, we need your help and suggestions for items to present at the convention.

We welcome your input for this project. This is a terrific way to show off our state before 40,000 attendees.

If you can assist us with this, please bring your items to the January 2018 Leadership Meeting/ Awards Banquet. If you cannot attend, but have items to share, please contact Bill Wilbur, NYS Chapter President, 315-963-3368 or email wwilbur551@aol.com.



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Fred Evans speaks to an audience of volunteers, former and current ASP and DEC employees, NWTF friends and family during the grand opening of the new turkey display in the Red House Administration Building located in Allegany State Park, Salamanca. Representatives from Governor Cuomo's office, the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation, Allegany State Park, NYS DEC and NYS Chapter NWTF and NWTF Staff are seated around the stage to listen as Fred relates stories of how the first turkey trapping came to happen in the Park. For more information, see page 6 inside the newsletter.